



PRESS RELEASE
*Office of the United States Attorney
Middle District of Florida*

PAUL I. PEREZ
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

400 North Tampa Street
Suite 3200
Tampa, Florida 33602
813/274-6000
813/274-6300 (Fax)

300 North Hogan Street
Suite 700
Jacksonville, Florida 32201
904/301-6300
904/301-6310 (Fax)

501 West Church Street
Suite 300
Orlando, Florida 32805
407/648-7500
407/648-7643 (Fax)

2110 First Street
Suite 3-137
Fort Myers, Florida 33901
239/461-2200
239/461-2219 (fax)

Contact: Steve Cole ♦ Public Affairs Specialist ♦ 813/274-6352

For Immediate Release

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LOCAL MEDICAL CLINIC ADMINISTRATOR AND OFFICE MANAGER
INDICTED FOR HEALTH CARE FRAUD

Jacksonville, Florida - United States Attorney Paul I. Perez announced the return of an indictment against Robert C. Brown of Jacksonville, age 62, and Laurette C. Hunter formerly of Jacksonville, age 41, charging them with conspiring to commit health care fraud, twelve counts of health care fraud, twelve counts of conspiring to make false statements in connection with a health care matter, and four counts of conspiring to commit mail fraud. In addition Brown is charge with ten counts of money laundering. The maximum penalty on the conspiracy charge is five years' imprisonment, each count of health care fraud carries a maximum of ten years' imprisonment, each count of making a false statement carries a maximum sentence of five years' imprisonment, each count of mail fraud carries a maximum sentence of 20 years' imprisonment, and the money laundering counts each carry a maximum penalty of 20 years' imprisonment.

Both were arrested this morning and at their initial appearance today in Jacksonville federal court Magistrate Judge Monte C. Richardson released Hunter on \$50,000 signature

bond and released Brown to the custody of a third party custodian, with home detention and electronic monitoring, with ten per cent down on a \$50,000 signature bond.

According to the indictment, Brown was the owner and acting administrator of RCB Inc. Medical Clinic, a local walk-in clinic in Jacksonville. Hunter worked at RCB as the office manager. From March of 2002 until September of 2004, the indictment alleges, Brown and Hunter conspired to fraudulently bill private insurance companies for patient services never performed by RCB. Many of the alleged patients were billed for services every day, for extended periods of time, for services ranging from injections to diagnostic tests when, in fact, the procedures were never performed by doctors at RCB. The indictment against Brown and Hunter also alleges that Brown directed Hunter and another RCB employee to perform medical tests on themselves in order to create test result print-outs to support the false claim forms submitted to the private insurance companies. In total, the private insurance companies reimbursed RCB almost two million dollars for false claims.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Ashley Moody and Kathleen O'Malley.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.